

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of offering a commemorative image on viewing of moving images, comprising the steps of:

allowing a customer who is viewing moving images to designate an image of a desired scene out of the moving images and also allowing the customer to place an order for said image of the thus designated scene as accompanied by orderer information which specifies said customer;

picking up first digital image data from video signals for said moving images in response to the designation of said desired scene, said first digital image data corresponding to the image of said designated scene;

creating the commemorative image, using the picked-up first digital image data, that is commemorative of the viewing of the moving images and reproduces the image of said designated scene; and

delivering the created commemorative image to said customer after checking it against said orderer information.

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storing in a specified memory said first digital image data as picked up from the video signals for said moving images; and

said commemorative image being created using said first digital image data as read out of said specified memory.

3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said commemorative image is created as second digital image data from said first digital image data, and output as a print or prints of the moving images that reproduces said commemorative image from said second digital image data or output as a recording medium or media having said second digital image data recorded thereto or created as distribution data from said second digital image data which is to be distributed via a communication network.

4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the delivery of said commemorative image takes form of delivering said output print or prints of the moving images or said output recording medium or media to said customer or distributing said distribution data to said customer via said communication network.

5. The method according Claim 1, wherein said commemorative image is delivered to said customer in accordance with an image delivery method designated by said customer.

6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein image delivery information that designates said image delivery method is sent with said orderer information when the order for the image of said designated scene is placed by said customer.

7. The method according to Claims 1, wherein said commemorative image is created as a collection of images of a plurality of designated scenes.

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9. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said first digital image data which is picked up from the video signals for said moving images in response to said designation of the desired scene when the order for said image has been placed is said first digital image data for a plurality of successive images in one action which corresponds to said designated scene, second digital image data for said one action is created as said commemorative image from said first digital image data for one action, and said second digital image data for said one action is recorded to a specified recording medium as said commemorative image.

10. The method according to Claims 1, wherein said first digital image data is composited with an image already prepared by said customer to create said commemorative image.

11. The method according to Claim 2, wherein said first digital image data for images of designated scenes by said customer are stored in said memory, said first digital image data are read out of said memory and displayed on a monitor, and the image of said designated scene by said customer, for which the order is finally to be placed by the customer is chosen from the thus displayed images of designated scenes by said customer on the monitor.

12. The method according to Claim 2, wherein said first digital image data for the images of scenes within a specified time range including not only the image of said designated scene out of said moving images which has been designated by said customer but also images both before and after said image are stored in said memory, said first digital image data are displayed on a monitor, and the image of said designated scene by said customer, for which the order is finally to be placed by the customer is designated from the thus displayed images of the scenes within said specified time range on the monitor.

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13. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said first digital image data corresponding to images of a plurality of specified scenes within said moving images are preliminarily stored and when the order for the image of said designated scene is placed, the first digital image data for the image of a scene which is the closest to the image of said designated scene is picked up from said preliminarily stored first digital image data in response to said designation of the desired scene.

14. The method according to Claim 1, wherein statistics is taken of frequency of said designation of the desired scene and prior to designation of the desired scene by said customer, a commemorative image is made available for each of the images of frequently designated scenes.

15. The method according to Claims 1, wherein a biological reaction occurring in said customer is utilized to designate the image of said desired scene.

16. The method according to Claim 15, wherein said biological reaction is at least one parameter selected from

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among heartbeat, breathing, body temperature, brain waves and movement and attitude of eyeballs of said customer.

17. A system for offering a commemorative image on viewing of moving images, comprising:

a scene designating device by means of which a customer who is viewing moving images designates an image of a desired scene out of the moving images;

an image ordering device by means of which the customer places an order for creation of the image of said designated scene with scene designating information which identifies the image of the designated scene and orderer information which specifies said customer;

a digital image data pick-up device for picking up first digital image data from the video signals for said moving images in response to the scene designation, said first digital image data corresponding to the image of said designated scene;

an image output device which, using the first digital data as picked up by said digital image data pick-up device, creates a commemorative image that is commemorative on the viewing of the moving images and reproduces the

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image of said designated scene and outputs said commemorative image; and

an image delivery device which delivers said output commemorative image to said customer after checking it against said orderer information.

18. The system according to Claim 17, further comprising a memory for storing the first digital image data as picked up by said digital image data pick-up device, wherein said image output device creates said commemorative image using said first digital image data as read out of said memory.

19. The system according to Claim 17, wherein said image output device creates said commemorative image as second digital image data from said first digital image data, and it is at least one device selected from among a print output device which outputs a print or prints of the moving images that reproduces said commemorative image from said second digital image data, a recording medium output device which outputs a recording medium or media having said second digital image data recorded thereto, and an image distributing device which creates distribution data from

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said second digital image data and distributes it via a communication network.

20. The system according to Claim 19, wherein said image delivery device is such that said print or prints of the moving images as output from said print output device or said recording medium or media as output from said recording medium output device is delivered to said customer as said commemorative image or said distribution data is distributed to said customer via said communication network by means of said image distributing device.

21. The system according to Claim 17, wherein said image delivery device delivers said commemorative image to said customer in accordance with an image delivery method designated by said customer.

22. The system according to claim 21, wherein image delivery information that designates said image delivery method is sent with said orderer information when the order for the image of said designated scene is placed by said customer.

23. The system according to Claim 17, wherein said image output device creates said commemorative image as a collection of images of a plurality of designated scenes.

24. The system according to Claim 18, wherein said digital image data pick-up device picks up said first digital image data for a plurality of successive images in one action which corresponds to said designated scene and stores the picked-up first digital image data in said memory, and said image output device creates as said commemorative image second digital image data from said first digital image data for said one action which has been stored in said memory and outputs said second digital image data for a one action to a specified recording medium.

25. The system according to Claim 17, further comprising:

an image input device for entering an image already prepared by the customer; and

an image compositing device by means of which the image entered by said image input device is composited with said first digital image data, wherein

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a composite image created by said image compositing device is output from said image output device as said commemorative image.

26. The system according to Claim 18, further comprising:

a monitor by means of which said first digital image data as stored in said memory which correspond to images of designated scenes by said customer are read out of said memory and displayed; and

a scene selecting device by means of which the image of said designated scene by customer, for which the order is finally to be placed by the customer is chosen from the thus displayed images of said designated scenes by customer on the monitor.

27. The system according to Claim 26, wherein said digital image data pick-up device picks up said first digital image data for the images of scenes within a specified time range including not only the image of said designated scene out of said moving images which has been designated by said customer but also images both before and after said image and stores said first digital image data in said memory,

said first digital image data are displayed on said monitor, and the image of said designated scene by said customer, for which the order is finally to be placed by the customer is designated by said scene selecting device from the thus displayed images of the scenes within said specified time range on the monitor.

28. The system according to Claim 17, further comprising a data base for preliminarily storing said first digital image data corresponding to images of a plurality of specified scenes within said moving images, wherein said digital image data pick-up device picks up from said data base the first digital image data for the image of a scene which is the closest to the image of said designated scene by said customer.

29. The system according to Claim 17, wherein statistics is taken of frequency of said designation of the desired scene and prior to said designation of the desired scene by said customer, a commemorative image is made available for each of the images of frequently designated scenes.

30. The system according to Claim 17, wherein said scene designating means designates the image of said desired scene utilizing a biological reaction occurring in said customer.

31. The system according to Claim 30, wherein said biological reaction is at least one parameter selected from among heartbeat, breathing, body temperature, brain waves and movement and attitude of eyeballs of said customer.

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